

Appl. No. 10/081,825
Amdt. dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- With particular reference to Figure 1, an airbag inflator according to the present invention is generally designated at 10. The inflator 10 includes a housing 12 having a first end 14 and a second end 16. In one preferred embodiment, the housing 12 comprises corrugated steel. The housing 12 may be cylindrical with openings 18 defined by each end 14, 16 of the housing. In one embodiment, as discussed in greater detail below, the openings 18 are configured to receive a first end cap 20 adjacent the first end 14 of the housing 12, and a second end cap 22 adjacent the second end 16 of the housing 12. The housing 12 may include a mesh covering 24 positioned about the housing 12. The covering 24 has a first end 26 and a second end 28 and consists of braided metal wire. In one embodiment, the metal is steel. The braided nature of the covering 24 allows it to flex and expand as the housing 12 flexes and expands. Thus, the present invention allows for flexibility and expandability which facilitates attachment of the inflator to irregularly shaped vehicle interiors. The housing 12 should be of sufficient strength in combination with the covering 24, to withstand the pressure and heat of expanding inflation fluid, yet should allow the corrugate to flex and expand. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 18 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The exit ports 80 may be created within the housing 12 by piercing or perforation. The housing 12 may be perforated in any location where any burrs 74 84 left by the creation of the exit ports 80 are separated from the protective membrane 60. For example, as shown in

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Figure 2, the housing 12 may be perforated adjacent the distal peak portions 76 to create an exit port 80 having burrs 84. Alternatively, as shown in Figure 2A, the housing 12 may be perforated at a point between the distal peak portions 76 and the proximal valley portions 78 to create an exit port 80A having burrs 84A. In either embodiment, the housing 12 may be readily pierced without damaging the environmental seal or membrane 60. --
